

THE WEATHER. Unsettled

WILSON URGES A VOTE ON WARNING MOTION IN HOUSE

President Sends Letter to Ranking Member Suggesting that Test of Strength Be Made. CHIEF WANTS A SHOWDOWN Declares Foreign Capitals Make Use of Reports of Dissension in Congress.

HE WRITES MISSIVE TO POU

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—President Wilson has written a letter to Representative POU, ranking member of the house committee on rules, asking that resolutions warning American citizens of armed merchantmen of the allies be voted upon.

Wilson's Letter.

"My dear Mr. POU: "Inasmuch as I learn that Mr. Henry, the chairman of the committee on rules is absent, I take the liberty of calling your attention, as ranking member of the committee, to a matter of grave concern to the country which can, I believe, be handled under the rules of the house, only by that committee. "The report that there are divided counsels in congress in regard to the foreign policy of the government is being made industriously use of in foreign capitals. I believe that report to be false, but so long as it is anywhere credited it cannot fail to do the greatest harm and expose the country to the most serious risk. I, therefore, feel justified in asking that your committee will permit me to urge an early vote upon the resolutions with regard to travel on armed merchantmen, which have recently been so much talked about, in order that there may be afforded an immediate opportunity for full public discussion and action upon them and that all doubts and conjectures may be swept away and our foreign relations once more cleared of damaging misunderstandings. "The matter is of so grave importance and lies so clearly within the field of initiative that I venture to hope that your committee will not think that I am taking unwarranted liberty in making this suggestion as to the business of the house and I very earnestly commend it to their immediate consideration. "Cordially and sincerely, "Signed, WOODROW WILSON."

French Auxiliary Cruisers Sunk in Mediterranean

PARIS, Feb. 29.—(Via London.)—The auxiliary French cruiser La Provence was sunk in the Mediterranean last Saturday. At Malta 286 survivors have been landed. The ministry of marine estimates the number of survivors at 250. Four hundred survivors were landed at Malta. La Provence sank in the middle Mediterranean. La Provence was one of the largest and finest of the French line vessels. Its gross tonnage was 13,703. It was built at St. Nazaire in 1905, was 602 feet long, sixty-five feet beam, and thirty-eight feet deep. It was requisitioned by the French government for naval service at the outbreak of the war. At the time it was launched, La Provence was the fastest trans-Atlantic liner ever built in France.

Assailants of Miss Crane Are Held in Bonds of \$20,000

NEWTON, Mass., Feb. 29.—On the strength of a report from physicians that injuries of Miss Helen M. Crane and Miss Hannah M. Pratt, who were attacked at Miss Crane's home last night, were more serious than at first supposed, Albert Saunders and Frank Sidney, negroes arrested after the assault, were held in \$20,000 each in court today. Miss Crane is a sister of the actor, William M. Crane, and Miss Farrington is her companion. The police investigation showed that both had been severely beaten. Jewelry valued at \$1,500 was stolen.

The Weather

Forecast till 7 p. m. Wednesday: For Omaha, Council Bluffs and vicinity. Precipitation: 0.00. Temperature at Omaha yesterday: High 58, Low 38, Mean 48.

Comparative Local Record. Highest yesterday: 58. Lowest yesterday: 38. Mean temperature: 48. Precipitation: 0.00.

BIG CEMENT SHOW OPENS TO PUBLIC

Exhibit Given by Mid-West Cement Users' Association is Biggest Held in Middle West.

OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS ARRIVE Not only the biggest, but also the most interesting, cement show ever held in the middle west opened at the Auditorium at 7 o'clock last night for the remainder of the week.

Secretary Frank Whipperman of the Midwest Cement Users' association, which organization is giving the show, asserts that in every way the present show easily surpasses all previous cement shows held in Omaha or anywhere else west of Chicago.

Folks who care little about cement and concrete from the standpoint of the user will nevertheless find much entertainment and education in a visit to the show. The exhibit is a concrete garage, a miniature Lincoln highway, illuminated to show the points on that highway constructed of concrete, and also in a miniature reproduction of a machine and a gang of men turning an old mud road into a modern concrete thoroughfare.

Displays for Farmers.

Office men, factory workers and teachers and students find interest in the application of fireproof construction to buildings and fire escapes as neatly illustrated by numerous models. The farmer investigates concrete silos, barns, stalls and other farm appurtenances made of concrete, for there are many practical displays and models of these at the show. A beautiful arbor, built entirely of concrete, is another attractive feature where the crowds gather. Fountains, walks, fountains and many other things are also displayed to emphasize the varied uses of the modern construction material, and even burial vaults of concrete are on exhibition.

Movies on Program.

"Movies" are also on the program. "A Concrete Romance" is the subject of one of the films and other reels and stereoscopic slides show concrete work, good roads and the progress of the cement industry in its many phases throughout the country. These picture exhibitions are free every afternoon.

Not only Omahans, but crowds from other cities and towns, are attending the big show. Director Frank Leeder of Sioux City has sent word that 150 people from Sioux City will come to attend the show today.

George Wolf of Fremont, state consul of the Lincoln highway, is coming down Thursday night and Friday with a crowd of other officials of the highway to attend the cement show and also hold a conference with the cement manufacturers. This is expected to result in the construction of more concrete stretches on the highway across Nebraska.

Felix Diaz Commands Several Thousands

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 29.—Diaz adherents said today they had advised that Felix Diaz landed in the state of Vera Cruz last week and was joined there by several thousand troops. Diaz was said, intended marching to his home state of Oaxaca to join 10,000 troops to begin his campaign against Villa and Carranza. Esparta troops, it was said, would join the Diaz army. Several million dollars was declared to have been provided to finance the movement.

Roads Want Federal Regulation Simply

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—Frank Trumbull, chairman of the railway executive's advisory committee, representing 34 percent of the railroads of the country, today asked the house interstate commerce committee to bring all activities of the railroads under purely federal control. "We are quite willing to sit down at the table with you and help you draft a law," he said, "provided you emancipate us from the states."

General Scott at Cabinet Meeting

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—Major General Hugh L. Scott, secretary of war and interim, attended today's cabinet meeting, and the White House historians said it was the first time since the civil war that an army officer had sat at the cabinet table.

Mondell Asks if Wilson Is Ajax Daring the Lightning or Falstaff?

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—Representative Mondell of Wyoming, republican, in a speech to the house today assailed the administration's foreign policy and urged the passage of his bill, still in committee, to warn Americans from taking passage on armed merchantmen. "When anyone fully informed," said Mr. Mondell, "contends that an American citizen has a right which should not be denied to travel on a ship armed to fight, purposed to fight, and bound into the regions of war, I am compelled to believe that the one so insisting is either playing politics with the national honor or is disposed to embroil the nation in war."

TEUTONS KEEP UP THEIR POWERFUL DRIVE ON VERDUN

Berlin Report of Man-huelles, Champion and Small Fort Near Douaumont After Furious Fighting.

FRENCH ADMIT SOME LOSSES

Germans Succeed in Occupying Several Trenches in Lorraine.

ACTIVITY IN CHAMPAGNE ZONE

BERLIN, Feb. 29.—(Via London.)—Progress for the Germans in their drive towards Verdun, in the Woerwe district, was announced by the war office today. The German troops have passed Dieppe, Abcourt and Blanche, and also have taken Man-huelles and Champion.

The war office also announced that a small armored work northwest of Douaumont has been stormed by the Germans.

The official announcement gives the total number of unwounded prisoners taken as 16,575. There have been captured also 78 cannon and 86 machine guns.

French Admit Some Losses.

PARIS, Feb. 29.—The bombardment to the north of Verdun is continuing with great intensity. East of the Meuse last night there was a resumption of violent local attacks. Near the village of Douaumont the fighting came to a hand-to-hand encounter and the Germans were repulsed by French troops. After intense artillery fire German forces captured the village of Man-huelles, but a counter attack brought the French to the western boundary of this location. They now hold Man-huelles under their fire.

In Lorraine the Germans succeeded in occupying small sections of French trenches, but they were very shortly driven from these positions. There is nothing to report from the remainder of the front.

The Official Report.

The official communication issued to-night reads: "Between Soissons and Rheims our artillery bombarded important points behind the enemy's front. "In Champagne our batteries shattered German organizations in the region of Hill 193. To the west of Malson de Champagne the Germans exploded a mine, the crater of which was occupied. "In the region of Verdun the bombardment continued on the north front with less intensity than on the preceding days. No infantry action was reported in the course of the day. The Germans entrenched themselves on the slopes north of Cote du Poivre, the first ridge of which is occupied by our advanced elements.

Carry Out Violent Fite.

"We carried out a violent fire on Semoussieux, where an enemy battalion had assembled. "At various points on our front in the Woerwe our artillery fire prevented attacks, in the course of preparation, from being carried out. "In the Vosges there has been great artillery activity in the region of Benches and the Ban-de-Sapt. To the east of Seppois a counter-attack by us drove the enemy from some sections of trenches which he had penetrated during the morning."

The Belgian official communication reads:

"Greater activity has been displayed by the artillery, especially in the region of Dixmude. In the course of the afternoon two German balloons before our front broke over their moorings and fell, one in the sea opposite La Panne, the other near Coudekerque. The aeronautes were taken prisoner."

Richards Primary Law Case Must Be Tried on Its Merits

HURON, S. D., Feb. 29.—(Special.)—The attorney for E. D. Richards has received a telegram from Washington, D. C., announcing that the clerk of the superior court of the United States has declined to file the motion of Attorney General Caldwell to dismiss the appeal in the Richards primary election law case for the reason that the court, when it received the case and advanced it on summary docket for argument took jurisdiction of the case.

There is considerable satisfaction here that the attorney general was refused his preliminary motion to dismiss. His attempt to stop the trial of the case on its merits on mere technicalities has brought out open protests against using the official machinery of the state to fight the people through all the courts.

LOBECK BACK AGAIN AFTER MAKING SPEECH

(From a Staff Correspondent.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—Congressman Lobock returned to Washington this morning from New York where on Sunday he delivered an address in behalf of lifting the embargo on milk for the babies in the warring countries of Europe. He said that the embargo, in which the meeting was held, was crowded and the enthusiasm tremendous.

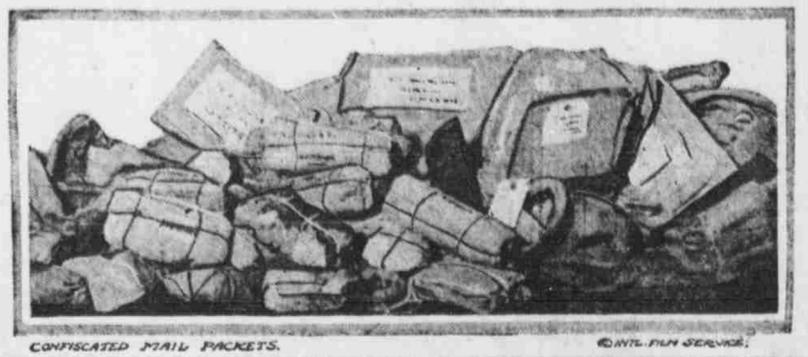
Italy Takes Over Interned Ships

LONDON, Feb. 29.—It was announced in the House of Commons today that the Italian government had requisitioned thirty-four of the thirty-seven German steamers interned in Italian ports.

Germans Lured Into Mined Woods Near Verdun Killed by Explosion

PARIS, Feb. 29.—"Do you know about the trick we played on the Germans on Caures wood?" was the question with which a French soldier who had been in the Verdun fighting introduced today his account of an incident at the front. "Well, to the north of Verdun," he continued, "a little beyond Beaumont, lies Caures wood. It was a point to which the German devoted special attention, and, therefore, everything was done to give them as good a reception as possible. "While our infantry on the fringe of

BRITAIN'S EXPLANATION OF MAIL CONFISCATION—This picture, which comes from England, is said to show packets of rubber which the British confiscated in mail directed from neutral countries to Germany. According to the British these packets are usually marked "samples of no value" in an attempt to smuggle them past the allied censors. On February 24 1,265 packets were taken from the S. S. Hollandia and 1,390 from the S. S. Gelria. These consignments were made to Holland.



CONFISCATED MAIL PACKETS. (COURTESY, U. S. MARINE CORPS.)

MARKET WEEK NOW ON IN FULL SWAY

Crowds of Nebraska Retailers Swarm Into Omaha to Do Their Spring Buying.

THEATER PARTY LAST NIGHT

Merchants' Market week activities began in earnest yesterday. Crowds of retailers from all over Nebraska and several other neighboring states have arrived and they spent the time looking over stocks of goods at the various wholesale houses and manufacturing plants and laying in their supplies of goods for the coming season.

All were optimistic over prospects for a good year of business and are buying wholesome orders on the prospects of an excellent business.

Wholesalers and manufacturers are advising the visiting retailers to reserve rooms at the hotels as soon as possible in order that none of them may be caught without accommodations. New hotels built in the last two years have added greatly to the hotel facilities of the city, but the cement show is now on and this brings a number of visitors to the city.

Good First Day Crowd.

"It was a good first-day crowd," said one of the committee, "as Tuesday was really the opening day of the Market week work and entertainment. The morning and afternoon trains brought great numbers of merchants, who spent the day at the various wholesale and manufacturing houses of the city."

Several hundred of the retail merchants from Nebraska and various states in the middle west section enjoyed the Orpheum last night as the guests of the local wholesalers and manufacturers.

Tonight is the "prize night" at the Commercial club rooms, where some valuable prizes are to be distributed among the visitors, and where some good music and dancing is to be given as entertainment. "Galatea," the famous local dancer, is to exhibit some of "her" best steps in interpretative dancing at this time.

Thursday night the local committee is to give the visitors a banquet and dance at the Fontenelle hotel.

Six Men Killed by Mine Explosion and Nine Are Missing

KEMPTON, W. Va., Feb. 29.—Six men are known to be dead, nine are still missing and fifty-two have been brought safely from mine No. 42 of the Davis Coal and Coke company near here, where an explosion occurred this morning. The missing men had penetrated far into the workings. Rescuers expressed the opinion that they had perished.

Cummins Blocks Vote on the Shields Power Site Bill

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—Senator Cummins, republican, blocked a vote on the Shields water power bill today, saying he would consent to no agreement for a vote until pending amendments had been thoroughly discussed. Senator Shields said he would move for night sessions to expedite the bill. Some of its provisions are hard fought by conservationists.

An Extra Day You get this extra time to do business only once in four years, but if you can do twice as much business every day, you will gain more than 300 extra days each year.

Persistent and properly placed newspaper-advertising will do it for you. Advertise in The Bee

BRYAN FOR WILSON, SAYS THOMPSON

Little Giant of Nebraska Democracy Brings Message North from X Miami.

WANTS THOMPSON FOR JUDGE

(From a Staff Correspondent.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—New light was thrown on the vacant federal judgeship in Nebraska today through an interview given to the press by Judge W. H. Thompson of Grand Island previous to his leaving for his home in Grand Island.

Judge Thompson, who is the democratic state chairman of Nebraska, having just come from Miami, Fla., where he had an extended visit with Colonel W. J. Bryan, said:

"People misunderstand Mr. Bryan's position regarding his relations with the president. "They differ only on a few principles resulting from the war. These do not affect their principal relations. Mr. Bryan will most likely be one of the Nebraska delegates-at-large to the St. Louis convention. The entire delegation will be for the president's re-nomination. Whether pledged or instructed, Mr. Bryan will probably be among the Nebraska delegation, which will be for the president in a man."

One-Term Plank Disposed Of.

Regarding the one-term presidential plank, Mr. Thompson said he believed Bryan would not raise it against the president. Bryan believes the plank should be again enunciated in the St. Louis platform, but made applicable only to a president elected after laws are enacted putting it into effect.

That no resolution will be urged by Bryan in the St. Louis platform which would embarrass the president or repudiate any of his policies was the substance of the sentiment expressed by Mr. Thompson. It is Mr. Bryan's belief the Wilson re-nomination is assured.

Thompson for Judge.

But what is most significant Mr. Thompson presented a letter to Attorney General Gregory yesterday when he called at the Department of Justice with Congressman Shallenberger, from Colonel Bryan, wherein the Commoneer respectfully called upon the attorney general to tell President Wilson that he, Mr. Bryan, wanted Mr. Thompson to be appointed to the Munger vacancy.

Above all other things Mr. Bryan said he believed Judge Thompson eminently fitted for the place by reason of long legal practice and faithful service. In the light of the interview which Mr. Thompson gave out today and the Bryan letter there was a perceptible change of atmosphere about the Department of Justice with reference to the judgeship matter, and a number of knowing persons were put to guessing just what Attorney General Gregory would do now.

Up to today it looked very much like Judge J. J. Thomas of Seward for the vacancy, but with Bryan's personal appeal, and the fact that he will place no obstacles in Wilson's pathway for nomination, but rather help him land the permission, Judge Thompson may read the title clear to the district judgeship of Nebraska, for momentary politics is being played these days by the Wilson forces.

Judge and Mrs. W. H. Thompson have been in Washington for several days. They have made a long visit to the Bryans in Miami, Fla. They left tonight for Grand Island.

BRITONS DECLARE FOR PROTECTION

Resolutions Adopted by Boards of Trade Look Toward Solidarity of the Empire.

FAVOR PREFERENTIAL TARIFF

LONDON, Feb. 29.—Great Britain's national expenditure for the current year will reach the gigantic total of £1,509,000,000, according to a statement today by Reginald McKenna, chancellor of the exchequer, addressing a meeting here of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom. Great Britain, he said, had maintained its credit unimpaired throughout the war.

The government, he said, was prepared to give assistance for the development of foreign trade in order to insure that rivals who were Great Britain's "bitter enemies," should not as in the past enjoy control of the foreign trade.

Mr. A. Freeman Firth, president of the association and chairman, moved a resolution that "the strength and safety of the nation lay in its ability to produce what is required from its own soil and factories."

Empire Instead of Nation.

Colonel Hughes of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce said the entire acreage of the country could not produce anything like the quantity of foodstuffs necessary to maintain the nation. An amendment was adopted substituting the word "empire" for nation in the chairman's resolution adopted.

Mr. McKenna estimated the expenditures for the year on England's own enterprises at £1,700,000. He said that of this amount one-third would be covered by the revenue raised in a full year on the present basis of taxation. He believed no other billigerent could show a similar record.

The chancellor referred to the relation between trade and military victory. "Destroy your trade," he said, "and you shatter the very foundation of our power to make these great advances to our allies and dominions."

The course of the nation, Mr. McKenna added, "would not fall. England was prepared to endure to the end."

Five Resolutions Adopted.

The meeting adopted five resolutions almost unanimously. The only dissenting votes were cast against the resolution dealing with the tariff. The first of these motions was one presented by the chairman concerning the production of Britain's necessary supplies within its own borders.

The second related to the protection of British industries. The third was in favor of the creation of a ministry of commerce and industry. The resolution in regard to the tariff declared in favor of preferential trade relations with the British empire, reciprocal arrangements with Great Britain's allies and favorable treatment of neutrals.

The last of these motions suggested a conference with the overseas dominions on various trade questions growing out of the war.

BROTHER STATE TREASURER TO LOCATE IN CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, Neb., Feb. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—Dr. Gilbert H. Hall, 39 Elk-horn, Neb., has decided to locate here and today made arrangements to move at once. Since Dr. Alken died a number of doctors have been considering this location.

Smith Dodge Recaptured.

BURLINGTON, Ia., Feb. 29.—Smith Dodge, who escaped from the Fort Madison penitentiary Sunday afternoon, was captured in Hamilton, Mo., today. Dodge was serving a thirty-year sentence for murder.

Turks Evacuate Trebizond and the Neighboring Towns

LONDON, Feb. 29.—A Central News dispatch from Petrograd says the Turks are hastily evacuating Trebizond and the neighboring towns on the Black Sea coast of the Caucasus region.

Five Ships Sunk in Mediterranean

TOKIO, Feb. 29.—The Japanese naval authorities have received official advice that three British steamers, one French and one Swedish steamer were sunk by German submarines in the Mediterranean on February 23 and February 24. The officials think this indicates an increased number of submarines operating in the Mediterranean.

NEW SUBMARINE CAMPAIGN IS ON WITH MIDNIGHT

German Armies Notify the Press that Armed Merchantmen Will Be Sent to the Bottom Without Notice.

NOTICE IS CONSIDERED AMPLE

Imperial Government Considers Neutral Nationals Will Avoid Ships Under the Ban.

GERMAN VIEW OF U. S. POSITION

BERLIN, Feb. 29.—(Via London.) Feb. 29.—The Associated Press is informed by German's leading statesmen that the new rule of submarine warfare which was announced in the German memorandum regarding the future treatment of armed merchantmen, will positively be put in effect at midnight of tomorrow, Tuesday, February 29.

At that time the period of warning for neutrals, giving them opportunity to advise their nationals not to travel on armed merchantmen will expire.

For several days there has been more than a possibility that Germany at the last moment might make a proposal that it would discontinue practices of reprisal and sink no merchant ships—freighters or passenger liners—without first halting the vessel for examination and putting the crew in a place of safety, as in the old style of naval warfare. If the allies would remove armament from merchantmen, it was thought England might accept this proposal, or that the United States and other neutrals would be convinced. If England refused, that it had no intention of discontinuing the use of armament for offensive purposes. This might possibly have given President Wilson proof that armament on merchantmen was not used purely for defense and thus enable the president to reconcile the two conflicting viewpoints regarding the propriety of merchantmen carrying armament and the impossibility of the United States altering the established law of nations.

Attitude of United States. Publication of President Wilson's letter to Senator Stone, however, apparently (Continued on Page Five, Column One.)

American Named Harris Hanged by Mexican Bandits

TORREON, Coahuila, Feb. 29.—It was reported here today that an American hotel keeper named Harris has been hanged by bandits at Sombrete. The date and other details were not given, although it is known that Harris has lived in Sombrete forty years. Sombrete is in the state of Zacatecas.

Bandits are reported to have looted the ranch of John Kramer, an American, at Olinpau, west of Durango City. Kramer, with his American employes, are said to have saved their lives by hiding in a hog pen.

General Canuto Reyes is officially reported to have escaped from the Laguna district and reached the Pinaroles canyon, south of Torreon.

The Torreon smelter will begin operations this week to relieve local unemployment.

Two More Life Boats from Maloja Are Washed to Shore

DOVER, England, Feb. 29.—Two more lifeboats from the British ship Maloja, sunk by a mine on Sunday were washed ashore today at St. Margaret's bay. The boats contained several bodies.

The inquest into the death of Maloja victims was closed here today. The expressed opinion of the chief officer of the steamer that it had been torpedoed was not sustained, other witnesses expressing the belief that the navigators of the Maloja saw a mine and tried to avoid striking it, but were unable to do so.

It was also brought out that only fourteen of the bodies recovered have been identified.

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